

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: REFUGEE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

1. THERE ARE IN IRAN 200 TO 300 SOUTHEAST ASIAN
DEPENDENTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS USING REFUGEE TRAVEL
DOCUMENTS OR RE-ENTRY PERMITS MOST OF THESE HAVE BEEN
IN IRAN 12 TO 18 MONTHS AND HAVE ALREADY RENEWED THE
DOCUMENTS ONCE. WHILE SOME AMCIT PRINCIPALS WILL
COMPLETE THEIR CONTRACTS AND RETURN TO THE UNITED
STATES, MANY OF THEM INTEND TO RENEW CONTRACTS AND
REMAIN IN IRAN FOR AN INDEFINITE TIME.

TEHRAN IS WELL AWARE THAT CURRENT REGULATIONS PERMITS
THE EXTENSION OF REFUGEE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND RE-
ENTRY PERMITS ONLY ONCE, TO A DATE TWO YEARS BEYOND
THE ISSUE DATE. IN VIEW OF THE INCONVENIENCE AND
EXPENSE OF TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SOLE
PURPOSE OF OBTAINING A RENEWED TRAVEL DOCUMENT, THE
EMB WONDERS WHETHER AN EXCEPTION TO OR AMENDMENT
TO CURRENT REGULATIONS WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

MOST OF THE FAMILIES INVOLVED ARE EMPLOYEES OF BELL
HELICOPTER INTL., A DEFENSE CONTRACTOR TO THE IRANIAN
AIR FORCE. VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE BALANCE ARE EMPLOYED
BY SIMILAR CONTRACTORS.

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